



Young pace bowler Abu Jayed had a field day in the Bangladesh Premier League at Mirpur yesterday. Opening the bowling for Khulna Titans, he picked up four wickets, including two in his first over, against Chittagong Vikings.

Jayed, Ariful deliver easy win

SPORTS REPORTER



With all the focus on the lack of quality performances from Bangladeshi players in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League, Khulna Titans bucked the trend as they rode on career-best performances from locals Ariful Haque and Abu Jayed to clinch an 18-run win over Chittagong Vikings at the Sher-e-Bangla National stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Ariful, whose previous best score in T20s was 33, went on to score a hurricane 25-ball 40 as Khulna added 48 runs off the last three overs, which Chittagong skipper Misbahul Haq identified as the difference-maker, to post 170 for seven.

With the ball, pacer Jayed surpassed his previous best bowling figures of three for 20 with a haul of four for 35 from four overs as the Vikings were restricted to 152 for seven.

Khulna are looking strong with two wins from three games, while Vikings lost their second game in a row and will have to lift their standards as the tournament progresses.

Right-arm pacer Jayed picked up consecutive wickets in the very first over, removing in-form Kiwi opener Luke Ronchi (2) off the third ball, before fellow opener Soumya Sarkar followed without troubling the scorers to leave the team on two for two.

The Vikings were never able to recover after that; Zimbabwean Sikandar Raza's 27-ball 37 with three fours and two sixes was

the highest score while Misbah added 30 off 37, but it was not enough to stay abreast of the asking rate.

Earlier, after being asked to bat, Khulna lost Chadwick Walton (5), Michael Klinger (2) and Nazmul Hossain (9) early and were struggling on 29 for three inside five overs.

Skipper Mahmudullah and South African Rilee Rossouw then started the rebuilding process and added 39 runs for the fourth wicket before the latter was dismissed after scoring 25 off 26, caught at deep square leg off the bowling of pacer Taskin Ahmed.

But Khulna started to build momentum after Ariful's arrival to the crease; the 24-year-old launched a straight six over leg spinner Tanbir Hayder's head in the 15th over.

Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, who held the innings together from one end, departed after Anamul Haque took a brilliant catch at point off Taskin, diving in front to dismiss the batsman for 40 off 33 balls with two fours and two sixes.

Ariful then took on leg-spinner Tanbir, hammering three sixes and a four to take 24 runs off the 18th over. Meanwhile, West Indian big hitter Carlos Brathwaite, who opened his account with a slap over long on for a six off Taskin, scored a quickfire 14 ball 30 which included three sixes and two fours.

Taskin picked up four wickets but conceded 43 runs from his four overs while Sunzamul took two wickets for Chittagong.

PHOTO:
FIROZ AHMED



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| SCOREBOARD | |
|--|-----------|
| KHULNA V CHITTAGONG | |
| KHULNA TITANS | R/B 4s/6s |
| Walton c Soumya b Sunzamul | 5/4 1/0 |
| Nazmul b Munawera | 9/10 1/0 |
| Klinger lbw b Sunzamul | 2/4 0/0 |
| Rossouw c Soumya b Taskin | 25/26 0/2 |
| Mahmudullah c Anamul | |
| b Taskin | 40/33 2/2 |
| Ariful c Soumya b Taskin | 40/25 1/4 |
| Brathwaite b Subhashis | 30/14 2/3 |
| Archer not out | 11/4 1/1 |
| Extras: (w-8) | 8 |
| Total: (For 7 wkt in 20 overs) | 170 |
| Did not bat: Mosharraf, Shafiq, Jayed. | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-13, 3-29, 4-48, 5-103, 6-158, 7-170. | |
| Bowler | O M R W |
| Sunzamul | 3 0 20 2 |
| Raza | 2 0 17 1 |
| Munawera | 3 0 16 1 |
| Subhashis | 3 0 21 1 |
| Taskin | 4 0 43 3 |
| Taskin | 4 0 44 0 |
| Reece | 1 0 9 0 |
| CHITTAGONG VIKINGS | R/B 4s/6s |
| Ronchi c Mahmudullah b Jayed | 2/3 0/0 |
| Soumya c Brathwaite b Jayed | 0/1 0/0 |
| Anamul c Archer b Brathwaite | 14/1 2/1 |
| Munawera c Rossouw b Jayed | 10/5 1/1 |
| Misbah c Nazmul b Jayed | 30/37 2/0 |
| Raza b Shafiq | 37/27 3/2 |
| Reece b Archer | 22/17 1/1 |
| Tanbir not out | 14/10 1/0 |
| Sunzamul not out | 5/6 0/0 |
| Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-8) | 14 |
| Total: (For 7 wkt in 20 overs) | 152 |
| Did not bat: Subhashis, Taskin. | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-3, 21-4, 38-5, 97-6, 107-7, 137. | |
| Bowler | O M R W |
| Jayed | 4 0 35 4 |
| Archer | 4 0 30 1 |
| Shafiq | 4 0 24 1 |
| Brathwaite | 4 0 29 1 |
| Mosharraf | 3 0 22 0 |
| Mahmudullah | 1 0 6 0 |
| Result: Khulna Titans won by 18 runs. | |
| Player-of-the-match: Abu Jayed. | |

MOMENTS

FAMILIARITY BREEDS A SIX

The interesting aspect of franchise competitions like the BPL is that it pits teammates against each other, which creates a dynamic all its own as they know each other's game inside out. They also practice exhaustively in the nets against each other, and that was painfully obvious for Chittagong Vikings fast bowler Taskin Ahmed when he bowled the first ball of his spell to Bangladesh teammate and Khulna Titans captain Mahmudullah Riyad. The senior batsman knew what was coming. It would be short of a length and outside off stump. As he had seen the target on the pitch like in a video game, Mahmudullah advanced, the ball found its target and the batsman found his, behind Taskin's head for six.

It went the other way too; knowing that Mahmudullah is none too comfortable against the bouncer, especially early on, Taskin unleashed one in the third ball of the over and hit the gloves hard enough for the magic spray to be called for.

PLAN FOR BRATHWAITE, BUT WHAT OF ARIFUL?

Having held Khulna to 122 for five after 17 overs, Chittagong captain Misbahul Haq had his sights set on limiting the Vikings' progress to below 150. To accomplish that, he had to stop Carlos Brathwaite from going berserk. With memories of the big West Indian hitting England pacer Ben Stokes for four consecutive sixes to win the 2016 World Twenty20 fresh in the mind, Misbah understandably opted for a spinner in Tanbir Hayder to deny Brathwaite a feast on the pacers.

In hindsight, it was not Brathwaite that he needed to worry about. Local batsman Ariful Haque hit Tanbir for three sixes and a four in the 18th over, which yielded 24 and Khulna went on to plunder 48 runs in the last three overs.

"It was a gamble to get him [Brathwaite] out, but he [Tanbir] did not even get a chance to bowl to him and the local guy [Ariful] just hit him for 24 runs," a bemused Misbah said after the match.

MEHEDI MIDDLE, BUT SAMUEL REVERSES

Rajshahi Kings lower-order batsman Mehedi Hasan Miraz was not having a good time with the bat against Comilla Victorians in the evening match yesterday. He was completely flummoxed by a Rashid Khan googly, but Liton Das dropped the inside edge. He barely middled any of the 11 balls he faced, but the one that he did was the last one he played. He reverse-swept Mohammad Nabi towards backward point and Marlon Samuels took two steps to his right before putting in a full-dive, completing a spectacular one-handed take parallel to the ground inches below.

It was a gamble to get him [Brathwaite] out, but he [Tanbir] did not even get a chance to bowl to him and the local guy [Ariful] just hit him for 24 runs," a bemused Misbah said after the match.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-3, 21-4, 38-5, 97-6, 107-7, 137.

Bowler

Jayed

Archer

Shafiq

Brathwaite

Mosharraf

Mahmudullah

Result: Khulna Titans won by 18 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Abu Jayed.

Afghans power Victorians

SPORTS REPORTER

Comilla Victorians' Afghan recruits, skipper Mohammad Nabi and leg-spinner Rashid Khan, provided a winning platform with some tight bowling to restrict Rajshahi Kings to a sub-par total that enabled the 2015 champions to clinch their second win in three matches of the Bangladesh Premier League by nine wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National stadium in Mirpur last night.

Nabi picked three for 15 from his four overs while Rashid was outstanding with his googlies and unerring line and length, picking up two wickets and giving away just seven runs from his four overs to keep Rajshahi to a paltry 115 for seven.

English batsman Jos Buttler scored an unbeaten fifty off 39 balls with four boundaries and two sixes and Imrul Kayes, who finished the game with a six off Malcolm Waller, was not out on a 41-ball 44 as the Victorians chased down the small target with 29 balls to spare, handing Rajshahi their third defeat in four games.

Liton Das gave Comilla a flying start and scored all of the side's first 23 runs off just 12 balls, smashing two sixes on bent knees off Forhad Reza in the second over before departing in the same over trying to play across the line.

Earlier, Comilla were once again without their icon player Tamim Iqbal as he was yet to recover from a thigh muscle injury. Nabi opted to field keeping the dew and pitch in mind and they were on top of Rajshahi, led by Mushfiqur Rahim

in the absence of the injured Darren Sammy, right from the start.

Rajshahi's half-centurion in the previous game, Momnul Haque, failed to make an impact this time around and was caught for two trying to go against the spin to off-spinner Nabi. Rony Talukder soon followed for a duck, getting a thick edge to the keeper while trying to smack pacer Al-Amin Hossain.

West Indian opener Lendl Simmons, who looked in terrific touch, scored 40 in no time, striking consecutive boundaries off left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny in the sixth over. But off the next ball Simmons pulled his hamstring trying to take a quick single and was on the ground in pain after completing the

run. He had to be stretchered off and was unable to return.

Mushfiqur offered a straightforward catch to cover off the bowling of Rashid after scoring 16 while Dwayne Bravo entertained with his dance moves after James Franklin played on to the stumps for seven. Marlon Samuels took a brilliant catch diving towards his right at backward point to catch Mehedi Hasan Miraz's powerful reverse sweep off Nabi, reducing Rajshahi to a dismal 82 for 6 in 14 overs.

Forhad however remained unbeaten on 25 off 30 balls and Mohammad Sami was not out on 10 as Rajshahi managed to go past the hundred mark. However the eventual total was never going to be enough.



Afghan leg-spinner Rashid Khan (C) is a hot property in any T20 competition across the cricketing world. Unlike any other wrist spinner he is very miserly when it comes to conceding runs. He had amazing figures of 4-0-7-2 for Comilla Victorians against Rajshahi Kings in a BPL game at Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

SCOREBOARD

RAJSHAHI V COMILLA

RAJSHAHI KINGS

R/B 4s/6s

Simmons retired hurt 40/23 6/1
Momnul c Buttler b Nabi 2/7 0/0
Rony c Liton b Al-Amin 2/0 0/0
Mushfiqur c Buttler b Rashid 16/14 3/0
Franklin b Bravo 7/12 0/0
Mehedi c Samuels b Nabi 6/11 0/0
Waller c Liton b Rashid 1/2 0/0
Farhad not out 25/30 1/0
Nihaduzzaman b Nabi 2/3 0/0
Sami not out 10/16 0/0
Extras: (lb-1, w-5) 6
Total: (For 7 wkt in 20 overs) 115
Did not bat: KWilliams.
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-29, 3-64, 4-68, 5-69, 6-82, 7-91.

Bowler

Arafat

Nabi

Al-Amin

Rashid

Bravo

Saifuddin

Waller

Comilla Victorians

R/B 4s/6s

Liton b Farhad 23/12 2/2
Butler not out 50/39 4/2
Imrul not out 44/41 4/1
Extras: (lb-1, w-2) 3
Total: (For 1 wkt in 15.1 overs) 120
Did not bat: Marlon Samuels, Alok Kapali, Mohammad Nabi (capt), Dwayne Bravo, Mohammad Saifuddin, Rashid Khan, Arafat Sunny, Al-Amin Hossain.

Fall of wickets: 1-23.

Bowler

Sami

Farhad

Mehedi

Williams

Franklin

Nihaduzzaman

Waller

Result: Comilla Victorians won by 9 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Rashid Khan.

Four Tigers to feature in PSL

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mustafizur Rahman and Mahmudullah Riyad were recruited by Pakistan Super League (PSL) outfit through the competition's Player Draft, which took place yesterday.

Shakib will feature in the PSL for Peshawar Zalmi alongside Tamim while Lahore Qalanders will make use of Bangladesh's prized bowling asset Mustafizur Rahman.

Tamim will play for Peshawar Zalmi for the very first time but on the other hand this is Shakib's second stint.

Meanwhile, Quetta Gladiators drafted Mahmud